

Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2023

Statement on the Release of Video Footage of the Beating of Tyre Nichols in Memphis, Tennessee

January 27, 2023

Like so many, I was outraged and deeply pained to see the horrific video of the beating that resulted in Tyre Nichols' death. It is yet another painful reminder of the profound fear and trauma, the pain, and the exhaustion that Black and Brown Americans experience every single day.

My heart goes out to Tyre Nichols' family and to Americans in Memphis and across the country who are grieving this tremendously painful loss. The footage that was released this evening will leave people justifiably outraged. Those who seek justice should not resort to violence or destruction. Violence is never acceptable; it is illegal and destructive. I join Mr. Nichols' family in calling for peaceful protest.

I spoke with RowVaughn Wells and Rodney Wells, Mr. Nichols' mother and stepfather, this afternoon. There are no words to describe the heartbreak and grief of losing a beloved child and young father. Nothing can bring Mr. Nichols back to his family and the Memphis community. But Mr. and Mrs. Wells, Mr. Nichols' son, and his whole family deserve a swift, full, and transparent investigation.

We must do everything in our power to ensure our criminal justice system lives up to the promise of fair and impartial justice, equal treatment, and dignity for all. Real and lasting change will only come if we take action to prevent tragedies like this from ever happening again. That is why I called on Congress to send the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act to my desk. When Senate Republicans blocked that bill, I signed an Executive order that mandated stricter use-of-force standards and accountability provisions for Federal law enforcement, as well as measures to strengthen accountability at the State and local level.

NOTE: The statement referred to Tyre Nichols, who died on January 10 as a result of injuries he received during an encounter with Memphis, TN, police officers following a traffic stop on January 7.

Categories: Statements by the President : Tyre Nichols beating in Memphis, TN, release of video footage.

Names: Nichols, Tyre; Wells, Rodney; Wells, RowVaughn.

Subjects: Criminal justice system, reform efforts; Law enforcement, use-of-force policy improvement; Policing best practices, improvement efforts; Tennessee, police-involved beating and death in Memphis.

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